

Message Text

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R 161459Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092435

FOLLOWING REPEAT TOKYO 5327 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK SEOUL
USUN NEW YORK CINCPAC CINCUNC COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JAPAN APR 12

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5327

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD; COMUSJAPAN PASS UNC (REAR)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, UN, KS, JA, TH

SUBJECT: WITHDRAWAL OF THAI UNC AVIATION DETACHMENT FROM JAPAN

REF: STATE 071151 (DTG 241613Z MAR 76)

SUMMARY: GOJ UPDATED ITS VIEWS ON THE EFFECT ON THE UN SOFA
IN JAPAN OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE THAI AVN DET. THEY NOW
FEEL THEY CAN DEFEND CONTINUATION OF THE UN SOFA ONLY IF
THERE IS AN ASSIGNED THIRD-COUNTRY PRESENCE IN UNC (REAR).
END SUMMARY.

1. FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH YAMASHITA APRIL 7 AND
VAMAZAKI (DIRGEN AMERICAN AFFAIRS) APRIL 9 HAVE UPDATED
AND REVISED GOJ VIEW OF QUESTION WHETHER UN SOFA COULD
REMAIN IN FORCE AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE THAI AVN
DETACHMENT.

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2. YAMAZAKI TOLD DCM APRIL 9 THAT GOJ DESIRES TO

COOPERATE IN PROTECTING CONTINUED VALIDITY OF UN SOFA IN ANY FEASIBLE WAY. IN LIGHT OF THE HISTORY OF UN SOFA AND ASSOCIATED U.S.-JAPAN AGREEMENTS (ACHESON-VOSHIDA NOTES AND OTHERS), HOWEVER, HE NOW FEELS IT WILL NOT BE POLITICALLY FEASIBLE FOR THE GOJ TO LEAVE UN SOFA IN FORCE AS AT PRESENT WITHOUT AT LEAST TOKEN PRESENCE ON REGULAR ASSIGNMENT IN UNC (REAR) OF SOME THIRD COUNTRY PERSONNEL. PRECISE NUMBER WAS NOT MADE CLAR, BUT YAMAZAKI SPOKE AT SEVERAL POINTS OF "FIVE OR SIX." HE AND YAMASHITA SAID PRESENCE OF THIRD COUNTRY FORCES IN KOREA WOULD NOT SUFFICE, AND TEMPORARY OR TRANSIENT AND OCCASIONAL PRENCE IN UNC (REAR) WOULD NOT MEET GOJ'S POLITICAL REQUIREMENT.

3. BOTH YAMASHITA AND YAMAZAKI CONFIRMED THAT, WHILE THE QUESTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN TO THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL (VM SATO OR FONMIN MIYAZAWA), THEY HAVE CAREFULLY EXAMINED A NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVE FORMULAS. IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO CONTEMPLATE LEGAL OR VERBAL LEGERDEMAIN AS A WAY TO LEGITIMIZE THE CONTINUATION OF THE UN SOFA, THROUGH REDEFINITION OF THE WORD "FORCE" UNDER ARTICLE XXV OF THE UN SOFA OR GRANTING U.S. FORCES IN JAPAN DUAL SOFA STATUS.

4. YAMAZAKI RETURNED SEVERAL TIMES TO THE QUERY WHETHER NEW ZEALAND, UK, PHILIPPINES OR CANADA WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO ASSIGN "A FEW" PERSONNEL TO UNC (REAR) IN REPLACEMENT OF THE THAIS. BY COINCIDENCE, MINISTER GORHAM OF CANADIAN EMBASSY APPROACHED POLCOUNS APRIL 7 IN ONE OF HIS REGULAR INQUIRIES ABOUT STATUS OF PROBLEM. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY WHETHER CANADA MIGHT CONSIDER ASSIGNING SOME PERSONNEL TO UNC (REAR), HE OFFERED PERSONAL VIEW THAT HIS GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE "ALMOST EAGER" TO COOPERATE. HE REFERRED TO THE PRACTICAL WORKLOAD PLACED ON HIS EMBASSY BY REQUIREMENTS FOR LIAISON AND FACILITATION OF REGULAR CANADIAN UN FLIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD AND THROUGH JAPAN TO KOREA. HE SAID HE THOUGHT A VALID JUSTIFICATION FOR FULL-TIME CANADIAN PERSONNEL IN UNC (REAR) COULD BE WRITTEN, AND BELIEVED GOC MIGHT FIND IT ACCEPTABLE ALSO IN CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTEXT OF GENERAL POLICY COMMITMENT TO UN ACTIVITIES. GORHAM SAID HE WOULD UNDERTAKE NO REPORTING IN HIS CHANNELS FOR THE MOMENT, BUT VOUCHED FOR HIS VIEW AS BEING SERIOUS. HE ASKED TO BE KEPT INFORMED IN CASE HIS ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE USEFUL.

5. YAMASHITA ASKED WHETHER THE RECENT CHANGE OF THAI GOVERNMENTS MIGHT MEAN A CHANGE IN ORDERS FOR WITHDRAWAL

OF THAI AVN DET. WE SAID WE HAD NO INFORMATION AND
WERE ASSUMING THAI DET. WOULD BE REMOVED IN DUE COURSE.
HODGSON
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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